# Quote

VOL. 3 INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, MARCH 23, 1942 NO. 12



"They say I am no longer a liberal. Well, maybe I am reactionary, but I think those boys who belong to unions ought to get down to work. They must work now, if they want their children to make $5 and $6 a day later. I'm not fighting unions. I'm fighting *for* unions, but I am against strikes in the midst of this country's peril. The only strike we can afford is a strike against Japs and Nazis!" — MAURY MAVERICK, Chief, Bureau of Gov't Requirements, WPB.



**For those who will not be *Mentally Marooned***

# WORLD WEEK

The commentators and headline writers are again, we fear, building too high hopes of an allied offensive in the Pacific. MacArthur transfer (which most informed sources have anticipated for a month) is a heartening portent, as is, of course, the punishing American-Australian attack on Japanese transports off the east coast of New Guinea. There is mounting evidence of an earnest stand by United Nations on Australian continent. Nevertheless, we are still basically on the defensive, although, as we reminded you last week, the action may, and doubtless will at times take on an offensive aspect.

Japan is now over-extended (as even Nazi newspapers intimated this week) and with our growing air strength must expect to pay increasingly heavy penalties. Even though she is prepared for these losses, they will hurt. Every ship sunk reduces her striking power.

> . . . — *Some observers say that resignation of* Guthrie *from WPB is another evidence of long-suppressed scandal; that he was forced out by industrialists (including some $1-a-year men) who fought orders to curtail peacetime goods. Several industries—electrical appliances, plastics, textiles—are said to be recalcitrant, despite evidence of growing war needs. Actually, we face wool famine. If Australian imports are cut, we won't have enough to clothe army.*

**"WE WANT ACTION!"**—Americans grow increasingly articulate in demands that something be done to curb labor-management wrangles and speed production. Following six-man conference with labor leaders this week, President shows no indication of firm stand. But Congress, up for election, is badly scared. Letters, angry and portentious, pour into Washington as never before. As you know, Chairman Vinson, of the House Naval Committee, is again sponsoring regulatory legislation. This bill, which proposes elimination of 40-hr. week, abolishes overtime pay and limits profit on war contracts to 6 per cent, is admittedly extreme. But there is growing belief that Congress will have to take some action, over protests of New Deal fringe who insist that "labor's gains" must be held intact, despite emergency. If the people don't get ACTION they're going duck hunting with a vengeance, come Fall elections.

**NORWAY**—Germans this week closed all Norwegian ports; transferred a first-line general to Norway; made other moves strengthening military and naval forces in that area. May indicate (a) concerted effort to cut Russia's north supply lines; (b) protective move against possible allied invasion; (c) first step toward invasion of Iceland. All reports are that Norway seethes against conquering hosts. Neighboring Sweden, too, is concerned over potential threats to her neutrality. There's likely to be trouble of a sort, and before long, in this northern area.

## *Quote* prophesies . . .

**UNITY: Look for more stories out of Washington and elsewhere playing up importance of nat'l unity. Gov't has much evidence implicating enemy agents in efforts to divide nation. It's a Hitler ace.**

**WOMEN IN WAR: A census of feminine skills is on the way; may come this year. We'll see many more women in defense industries and in posts of genuine service. Note growing resentment against those who wear uniforms for show. Textile shortage may cut down fancy costumes.**

**LONG-RANGE FORECAST: There will be at least three changes in President's cabinet before year's end. . . Unless Congress shows great courage in next 6 months, new faces (chiefly Republican) will dominate House next session.**

**RUSSIA**—As readers know, we have been most temperate in analysis of Russian gains, but present Russian position has potentialities that cannot be overlooked. Midweek news that Reds are digging deeply into the strongly-held Vyazma pocket, is most significant. If Stockholm report that 200,000 German troops are surrounded is borne out, Russia may be on verge of dealing a truly stunning blow. Next six weeks should reveal much.

**TURKEY**—We disagree with analysts who say carelessly, "It doesn't matter much whether Hitler goes thru Turkey or around Turkey. Turkey isn't important." We think Turky does matter—a good deal. After all, the Turks have a million men under arms, and have been at least partially mechanized thru lend-lease via England. It is well to remember that Turkey fought fiercely in World War I; was perhaps Germany's best ally. We don't say she could hold against strong invasion, but she should at least slow down Nazi hordes. Hitler must hold same opinion, or he would hardly expend so much diplomatic effort on Ankara.

**TAXES**—Proponents of a nat'l sales tax, as opposed to withholding tax, gain strength daily. Plan may have a real chance.

***. . . — Your Congressman's sudden interest in home defenses may reflect his natural interest in home fences!***

*Publisher.*

# Quote

*"He Who Never Quotes, is Never Quoted."*—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

**"This is not a war against Adolf Schickelgruber (Hitler) but against the individual German. Maybe one German is nice, but two Germans spell aggression; three make a regiment, and four—blitz!"**—Dr. Alexander Loudon, Dutch Minister to U. S.

" "

**"A hundred years ago, the romantic figure was the poet. Today, he is the foreign correspondent."**—Luise Rainer, Motion Picture Actress.

" "

**"It was the women in Germany who put Hitler into power. Two million German men were killed in that war, and the task of post-war adjustment was left mainly to women, who were inadequately prepared to cope with it, because a wrong stress had been placed on their role in society."**—Dr. Geo. N. Shuster, Pres., Hunter College.

" "

**"It is better to bomb Tokio than to build air-raid shelters in San Francisco."**—Dr. Wm. Y. Elliott, Harvard U.

" "

**"The church must more than ever be the church—the source of our spiritual strength and solace. There will be new and complex responsibilities which the church must meet in these troubled times. . . . A church organized for service will be prepared to meet these situations as they arise."** —Rev. Almon Pepper, Executive Chairman, Dep't of Christian Social Relations, Episcopal Church.

" "

**"It would be a good idea if the handful of congressional critics, who seem to know how to win this war, joined the Americans who are fighting it."** —Walter Winchell.

## "May we *Quote* you on that?"

**"The man who falters, strikes or delays at the flaming forge, at the riveting machine, or in the production line is a worse traitor than the coward who deserts under fire."** — Congressman Andrew J. May, of Kentucky.

" "

**"Keep your frail, nervously unstable daughters at home. Washington, in these times, is no place for them."**— Dr. Winifred Overholser, Sup't St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington.

" "

**"All of us—men in the services, and men and women at home—should be drafted and told the job we are to do. It seems to me there should be immediately a freezing of prices, profits and wages. No one can be frozen without freezing all."**—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose remarks caused speculation as to whether she reflects Administration policy.

" "

**"We are digging our own grave if we suppose that the unaided calendar can fight our battle."**—Rear Admiral Wm. Carleton Watts, U.S.N., Retired.

" "

**"Don't worry, compass or no compass, I'm taking these Army planes the right way now."** — Douglas ("Wrong Way") Corrigan, on his first flight after joining the Army Air Corps ferrying command.

**"The war can be lost in Washington. It cannot be won here."**—Donald M. Nelson.

" "

**"I have read that food, machines and equipment will win the war. Well, I will let you in on a secret—fighters will win. Fighters in the armed forces, in factories, on farms, in offices, on newspapers, in schools—men and women who will keep on, no matter what the obstacles. Incidentally, we soldiers do not appreciate the remark we sometimes hear when there is a strike: 'Make them work or fight!' The individual who is unwilling to work is not fit to fight. We don't want them in combat troops."**—Lt. Gen. Ben Lear, of "yoo-hoo" renown, addressing the Cleveland Advertising Club.

" "

**"The Allied plan to win the war in 1944 will be of little avail if we allow the Axis to win it in 1942."**—*Financial Post*, Canada.

" "

**"The warp and woof of our Soviet people, our men and our women, are so woven together; so strong and solid is the texture of our life, that we shall win with time and tanks. . . P. S. It will take much less time if you send us more tanks."**—Anna Donova, Russian Writer.

" "

**"I seriously advocate music instead of strait jackets in our mental hospitals. There is a melody for every malady, except the D. T's—music won't cure 'whisky whammies'."**—Dr. Moissaye Boguslawski, Concert Pianist.

" "

**"Don't twist the Lion's tail and we won't pluck feathers from the Eagle."** —Lord Halifax, British Ambassador to U. S.

*Quote is issued weekly by* Quote Service. Maxwell Droke, *Publisher. Business and Editorial Offices*: Droke House, *1014 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana. Subscription rates $3.50 per year in advance, in United States and Possessions. Foreign $5.00 per year. Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office at Indianapolis, Indiana, under Act of March 3, 1879.* Quote *uses no original manuscripts, and does not accept advertising.* Volume 3, Number 12.

## ADVERTISING

Many help-wanted advertisements devote their copy almost entirely to describing the good man they want, omitting to describe the good job they have to offer. Here's one that didn't:

"Girls, no kidding, here's a dinger of a job for you. Our family has three boys, but they're good kids and you'll learn to love them as we have. Our pay is what you'd call excellent. And at the end of the month you'll be away ahead of the department store clerk on her salary. You get a private room in a Country Club home. And in addition, we'll give you movie passes for you and a friend once or twice a week. Not bad, huh? Frankly, we think it's one of the best household jobs in this entire section. You call up and have a visit with the Mrs., anyway. Walnut 6106. The last girl we had stayed four years, but marriage got her, gol darn it. That speaks well, doesn't it?"

Of the 313 replies 9 were long distance calls and one was a wire from a mother 250 miles away imploring that no deal be closed until her daughter could arrive on the scene. All this in the face of an acute "maid shortage."—*Marketing.*

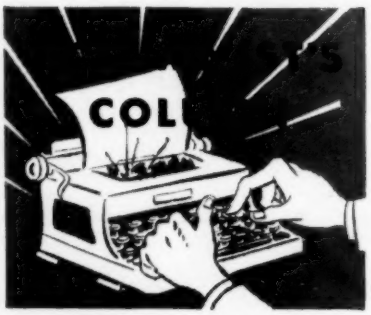
## AMERICAN-RUSSIAN RELATIONS

It is not often realized how near the United States and Russia are. They almost meet at the Behring Straits—where the distance between the Russian and American owned islands is not more than two miles. Both are Pacific powers, equally interested in Far Eastern problems. Their meeting resulted from two powerful movements—"Go West" was the American slogan; "Go East" that of Russia. But when the Americans reached the West Coast the Russians were already installed in San Francisco as well as in Alaska.

Now came the extra ordinary event! The Russians left America of their own free will—without the application of force. Two great Powers met without degenerating into a conflict. —*The Central European Observer*, 2-6'42.

## ANIMALS

The smaller number of visitors at the London zoo is reported to be having a depressing effect on the animals, which are thought to miss the liveliness and interest associated with larger crowds. . . . If Homo Sapiens goes to Regent's Park to look at the animals, the animals apparently enjoy looking at Homo Sapiens. And, after all, as there marshalled, displayed and controlled he represents quite a safe and well-behaved species. He may not trap the animals for their fur; he may not shoot them for his food; he is not even allowed to poke at them with his umbrella. As for such fashionable toys as tanks and high explosives, now so freely used in his relation with his own kind, they would not be permitted for one instant in Regent's Park.—*The Manchester Guardian*, 1-30-'42.




**Wake Up, America!**

**An Editorial**

The nation needs . . . to appreciate how badly we have been defeated in three months of war. . . It needs to get away, once and for all, from the comforting feeling that while we may lose at the start, we are bound to win in the end. Only when fully aware of existing perils will the United States do its utmost. Pray God that awareness will not come too late, as it did in France!

Production Director Donald Nelson appeals for maximum production.

Can we get it?

Not until we quit thinking in terms of less work for more money. Not while there is greater concern about overtime pay than overtime production. Not while farmer politicians are more interested in higher prices than in raising more essentials. Not while an army of federal press agents clamors to promote and perpetuate activities that have no present need or value.

Not while WPA, despite a shortage of labor, seeks to carry on projects which it doesn't have the men to perform or the need for performing. Not while CCC and NYA stretch greedy hands for funds to pamper young men who ought to be in the armed forces or the war plants.

Not while the life-and-death need for uninterrupted production is used as a weapon to put over the closed shop. Not while fifth columnists are pampered and enemy aliens move freely in defense areas. Not while the grim job of preparing our home communities against air raids and sabotage is gummed up with a lot of boon-doggling social service activity.

We will not get maximum production unless we realize our peril and get over the gimmies.

France had the gimmes, too. . . . France has no gimmes today—except gimme food, gimme a place to lay my head, gimme death.—Condensed from *New York World Telegram.*

### "Douse de Glims!"

"Such preparations shall be made as will completely obscure the buildings, during an air raid, from visibility by reason of internal or external illumination. Such obstruction may be obtained by termination of the illumination."—From a flowery bulletin issued by the Office of Civilian Defense.

## BREVITY

When Lord Napier was conducting a campaign in British India against the natives of the state of Scinde, pronounced "Sinned," he sent a message from the field to England's War Office which perhaps has no counterpart for brevity.

The message came, a single Latin word: "Peccavi."

Translated, it became: "I have sinned."

And the War Office knew, with its tongue in its cheek, that Lord Napier had taken Scinde.—"Between You and Me—and the Gatepost," *Pathfinder*, 3-7-'42.

## CONTENTMENT

We shall have fun rebuilding London. If I know my fellow countrymen there is going to be a God-awful row about it! The people of Mayfair throw open the great houses to the East Enders, who quite candidly do not like the mansions of the great and swiftly return to the devastation of the bombed areas. Once more I have decided there can never be a revolution in this country. You just cannot have a revolution when the bulk of the people think their own place is beautiful beyond compare.—Letter from P. Joyce Reynolds, English Editor of *Harper's Bazaar*, *War Letters from Britain*, (Putnam's, $2).

## DIET

For the thin: don't eat fast.
For the fat: don't eat; fast.

## EDUCATION

If little Johnnie steals a peek at his neighbor's examination paper, don't reach for the strap—it may be the teacher's fault.

Without doubt, the forcing of children of widely divergent abilities to compete under absolute grading standards has created a tremendous number of moral conflicts. These conflicts arise when the child who cannot honestly reach the academic standards demanded by the schools is tempted to gain the "success experience" thru cheating.—Dr. Francis W. Hibler, Associate Professor of Psychology, Illinois State Normal U.

## GOVERNMENT—Spending

The Congressman said that the way Congress is spending money reminded him of a member of the criminal class he once visited in the penitentiary hospital.

"The bullets didn't hurt me," said the criminal, "except when they struck a bone. Even then at first I was only numb."—*Nation's Business*, 3-'42.

### You See Them Everywhere...

A slip of the lip
May sink a ship.
" "
The tongue that's loose
May cook our goose.
" "
Let's jump on the Bond wagon.
" "
S.O.S.—Save Our Secrets.
" "
Sh-h-h! That's Sabotalk!

## JAPANESE—In America

Here's a yarn that people spin as gospel truth. And they all hang it on a Minneapolis family. It looks like a phoney to me, but it is interesting. Seems a family on the well-to-do side had a Jap house servant. He'd been with them for years and they had grown rather fond of him. Last October, the Jap informed the family he wanted to return to Japan for a visit. They hated to see him go, but finally he left. At the departure, the family presented him with a box, a sort of Christmas present that he wasn't to open until Christmas. At the same time he presented the family with a box with the same instructions. Last Christmas, so goes the story, the family here opened their present. In the box were—two gas masks.—Cedric Adams, *Minneapolis Star-Journal.*

## The American Red Cross

*Although treated as a target by Nazi bombers, a bright red cross on a white background is the symbol of impartial assistance and relief to the people of all nations—a symbol found wherever the disasters of war or nature strike.* Clara Barton, Daughter of Destiny, *(Lippincott, $3.50), by* Dr. Blanche Colton Williams, *is a new biography of that humanitarian woman who founded the American Red Cross, ceaseless in her efforts until the United States became part of the international order by signing the Treaty of Geneva in 1882. Seventy-nine of her ninety-one years, Clara Barton succored the stricken, in the Civil War, the Johnstown Flood, the Spanish-American War, perpetuating her cause in that mighty organization which today is meeting perhaps its greatest challenge on the home and battle fields of World War II. We bring you an incident which took place in Cuba:*

On July 4th, in Siboney—ten miles east of Santiago harbor—the Stars and Stripes flew from every masthead. The Spanish fleet had been destroyed. But a thousand United States soldiers had been wounded and, requiring every attention, received almost none. The Medical Department had failed to send supplies. So the departmental surgeons turned to the *Texas* (Red Cross ship) for aid; and supplies were sent ashore to the American wounded.

"Wait," they had said to Clara, "until the Army has opened and made the way safe for landing supplies for reconcentrados and refugees."

"I will await the emergency," she had determined, "rather than have the emergency wait for me." She had foreseen the crisis and had followed the Army as soon as possible. But for her foresight, generalship, experience and readiness to serve in her seventy-sixth year—even to riding miles on bundles and bales—many soldiers would have died for lack of care, for lack of food.

To Rough-Riding Teddy Roosevelt himself, who came to the Red Cross offering to buy delicacies for his wounded men, Clara said: "You can't buy them, Colonel, not for a million dollars."

According to the incident, as she told it, Roosevelt looked disappointed. He was proud of his men, he said, and they needed these things.

"And we are proud of you, sir, but we cannot sell hospital supplies."

"How can I get them?" he insisted.

"Just ask for them, Colonel."

## LAW—In Germany

A newcomer from Germany was explaining why law courts in Nazi land are empty and the judges don't have a stitch of work. "The reason for this state of affairs is very simple," said the visitor. "A Jew does not want to sue another Jew, and he is afraid to sue an Aryan. An Aryan will not sue a Jew because people will thereby get to know that he had business dealings with a Jew. And an Aryan will not sue another Aryan because Jewish lawyers can't defend him."—S. Felix Mendelsohn, *Let Laughter Ring.* (Jewish Publ. Soc. of Amer., $2.50).

## LIFE

Life is ten per cent what you make it, and ninety per cent how you take it.

## MARRIAGE—Wives

I should like to warn prospective grooms or young husbands that one of the greatest untruths ever perpetrated upon the American male is Myrna Loy. The type of wife Myrna Loy has been playing ever since the first "Thin Man" is not true. Wives simply do not behave like Myrna Loy and I don't want to see all the spring young men looking for false ideals. She's not real, boys.—James Thurber, *Mademoiselle*, 3-'42.

## MORALE

Our glowing conviction that total war means keeping hot water bags on our morale and checking our blood pressure every few hours, is the greatest waster of time and energy our enemies can hope to have.

What can we do? Well, maybe we can send a wire:

"Dear Mr. President: You can dismiss all the multitudinous metaphysicians of Washington and forget me.

"You can put your whole mind on military strategy and war production. You have my name. Until I hear from you I'll just work away at the job I've got, and try to do it a little better. And I'll buy more bonds.

"If you want to worry, worry about the men in Bataan. To hell, sir, with my morale. I've given it up for the duration."—James Pope, "Let's Bury the word 'Morale'," *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 3-13-'42.

## News of the New

**AVIATION:** A revolutionary pantaloon parachute, which drops almost straight down, was given a test by Army parachute experts, near Reno, Nevada, last week. "It's a big improvement," testified a sergeant. "It has less drift, opens faster with less shock. I could jump from 75 ft. with it."

An aerial mine has just been patented, which traps and destroys airplanes. Fired into the air, in front of invading planes, the mine drifts down on a parachute equipped with long wires; snags on wings of enemy craft and explodes.

" "

**INVENTION:** A new transparent liquid, called Roxaneal, now virtually converts ordinary glass into safety glass. Prevents glass from splintering; holds slivers in place after bomb concussion. It can be dissolved or scraped off, if desired.

" "

**MEDICINE:** There were interesting developments this week relating to two of America's most prevalent maladies — tumors and ulcers. American Society for Control of Cancer revealed that extra amounts of amino acids fed to animals with transplanted tumors caused tumors to disappear in more than 70% of cases. Preliminary experiments on humans are now under way. Two Chicago doctors, after 5 years investigation, advance the theory that stomach ulcers result when a small section of stomach is squeezed between liver and spine. Takes issue with previous theories blaming acids, enlarged liver, etc.

" "

**SCIENCE:** One of properties of chlorophyll (green coloring matter in plants) is ability to exclude harmful light rays which induce decay. Paper containers now being treated with this element to keep fruits, vegetables in better condition. Experiments under way to mix chlorophyll with rubber to give latter longer life; prevent spoilage from exposure to light.

" "

**SURGERY:** A new operation to give the brain a muscle and overcome some cases of paralysis was described this week to Southeastern Surgical Congress. Muscle acts as pipeline to carry blood to injured parts of brain, which control movement of arms and legs. Five operations on humans described as "quite successful".

### PEACE

There were only 227 years of peace thruout the world between 1946 B. C. and 1861 A. D., we learn from findings of Wm. F. Russell of Columbia U. In the four centuries from 1450 to 1850, for example, Austria was at war 234 years, England 198 years, France 192 years, Spain 271 years, and Russia 250 years.

### Washington's comment on cussing. . .

"The general is sorry to be informed that the foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing, a vice heretofore little known in an American army, is growing in fashion. He hopes the officers will by example as well as by influence, endeavor to check it, and that both they and the men will reflect, that we can have little hope of the blessing of Heaven on our arms, if we insult it by our impiety and folly. Added to this, it is a vice so mean and low, without any temptation, that every man of sense and character detests and despises it."—From a General Order issued by George Washington during the Revolutionary War, and recently commended to our own armed forces.

### RADIO—In Wartime

The people who manned the home fronts in other wars had it comparatively soft. They were, I honestly believe, of stouter heart for not being able to get the blow-by-blow from Thermopylae and the Alamo.

It is nice to know what is going on . . . but I am beginning to wonder if getting my ear bent by forty-'leven broadcasters isn't causing me to sag a little under the load.

How much different, how much more happy the lot of the lady with a husband engaged, let us say, in a War of the Roses. All she had to do to maintain touch with current events was to sit by her window and keep looking up the road. Presently, some dishevelled people would start coming over the brow of the hill. If they looked like her kinfolks or relatives by marriage, she would drop her knitting and put the soup kettle on; if they didn't she would turn loose the dog, fire the beacon and put some oil on to boil.—R. L. W., "In Perspective," *Providence* (R. I.) *Journal*, 3-11-'42.

## Confidentially thru a Megaphone



Many thousands of earnest citizens who registered for civilian service thru American Legion and other agencies chafe because they haven't been assigned to duty. OCD's response: "It takes time to organize; we'll get to everyone eventually."

The thing that's giving stocking manufacturers fits these days is how to hold up the hose. No elastic for garters, and neither nylon nor rayon will roll satisfactorily. . . Next on the list will be cooking utensils—including skillets—of china. . . Chlorine curtailment may force housekeepers back to "tattletale gray." Consolation: clothes will be stronger, more durable.

Ohio, thru Conservation dep't, is enrolling hunters for volunteer service against saboteurs. . . Lockheed Aircraft has installed a "Rumor Board." Anyone wishing to spread idle chatter is asked to write it out and sign his name. So far, no takers.

Big tire firms who used to scorn proposals of crack inventors, now scan every "Rube Goldberg" suggestion for rubber substitute. . . Tire dealers now refer to bootlegging as "the black market", borrowing London's term for illicit vending. . . No Easter egg-roll on the White House lawn this year. . . And, oh yes, as concession to sugar rationing, Mrs. FDR now substitutes salads for dessert. . . Dealers in sand report a mild rush in defense areas anticipating incendiary raids.

Have you heard this one: A woman in a crowded streetcar is overheard to say: "We're making so much money out of this war, we don't care how long it lasts." A man, holding precariously to a strap reaches down and gives the offending spokesman a resounding slap: "That," he said, "is for a son I lost at Pearl Harbor." Well, maybe. But it's been reported as an actual happening in at least a dozen cities recently.

Atlantic patrol recently fished up milk bottle with message sealed inside. Soaked, crumpled piece of paper contained this stirring message: *Two quarts milk; no cream.*

## RELIGIOUS RITES—Observance

An eminent Catholic lawyer some years ago approached the judge of his circuit court on the Thursday of Holy Week and asked, "Are you going to hold sessions tomorrow, judge?"

"Certainly," replied the judge. "Why should we call off proceedings just because the day has a religious signification?"

"Well," replied the lawyer, "I thought you might be interested in knowing that you will be the first judge to conduct a trial on Good Friday since Pontius Pilate." The custom of declaring a recess on Good Friday has prevailed in the U. S. ever since.—*The Liguorian.*

## ROYALTY—Japanese

The empress of Japan lives a much-regulated life. She is permitted to think and discuss only six things: Her husband, the sun, music, flowers, birds, and perfume. She is not permitted to read a newspaper, have a radio, or talk over the telephone. She doesn't even know that there is a war in Europe. She must wear only white.

## SABOTAGE

Warning posters on factory bulletin boards are generally in the negative. Douglas Aircraft, Santa Monica, Calif., tries a reverse twist: "Tokio Kid say mixed rivets makes so happy. Thank you."

## SALESMANSHIP—Artifices

I once heard my father say to a man who was abusing the notion of life insurance in general: "What are you talking about? You couldn't get any life insurance anyhow!"

"Why not " said the man.

"Because you have cirrhosis of the liver. No company would take you."

This worried the man, and he called on my father a few days later to see if my father had meant what he said.

"Well, let us go over to the medical examiner and have him look you over and see," said my father, and they both went.

The medical examiner found the man's liver was in excellent condition, and this so pleased the man that he let my father write him up for a $10,000 policy. The man insisted that the joke was on my father. He slapped my father on the back and shouted: "You see! You were wrong!" And of course, my father had to admit he was.—Leonard S. Feeney, *Survival Till Seventeen*, (Sheed & Ward, $1.50).

# American Scene

### Give Us Our War!

By Ralph McGill

It is about time, I think, they let us have our war. We need to have it given to us because as yet we don't really realize it is our war and that we've got to go on with all we have.

The ships that are sunk on our front pages every day never seem to get off those pages; never seem to be real ships.

I've seen persons read the news and shake their heads and turn on to something else.

It wasn't real. It was just a ship sunk in a far-off country with names out of mythology—Bali, Borneo, Celebes, Java, Bataan, and so on. There were Americans on it, but somehow they never seem real to the people reading the news. They weren't real ships or real men.

Even MacArthur and his men, fighting from their mountaintop and holding on despite odds of 15 to 1, lack a certain reality. They are like gods—heroic, mighty, and yet somehow far away and mystic in their greatness.

We can't feel the war. The telegrams beginning "The War Department regrets to inform you—" are beginning to come more frequently, but even so the grief has not yet become our own.

It is time, I think, we have again what we had before when soldiers died in this country—

The slow march through the streets with the heavy, solemn sound of Chopin's march saddening the air while men and women stood on the sidewalks and wept.

We need parades between trains. We need flags and bands. We need to see the men and to look into their faces and to feel a swift pride and a bond that tightens.

One of the worst mistakes all sorts of leaders make, business, financial and governmental, is not trusting in the essential decency and good sense of the people.

Give the people their war. You will see production increase. You will not see business and labor working for profits and wages, as so many of them are today. You will see them working for the men in the Army, Navy and Marines.

The riveting machines will go faster. The mills will hum. Industry will, in the face of public opinion, get to work with its men.

Let us have our war to weep over, to pray over. Let us see our men marching, let us see our flag in the wind, the faces of our soldiers as they move across our country. We do not want to know where they are going. But let us see them.

There never has been a war like this in which all we have is in the balance. And to date it has seemed so far away and the news has been hushed and the trains have passed in the night and the bands have not played for us and the men marched before us.

The people can be trusted.—Condensed from *The Atlanta Constitution.*

## WAR—Artifices

A plan to overcome the geographical obstacles to bombing Japan and at the same time to take advantage of Russia's neutrality in the Pacific war is being widely discussed in Washington government circles. American bombers and flying fortresses would take off from Alaska or the Aleutian Islands and bomb Tokyo. Instead of trying to return to their base they would go on to Vladivostok, where the Russians would be forced, under their present agreement with Japan, to intern the planes. The presence of American bombers and fighting planes might discourage Japan from making an early attack on the Soviet Union and would, in any event enable the Russians to release a good part of their Eastern defense for use against the Nazis. And finally, Soviet military men could study the design of the flying fortresses, none of which have reached Russia as yet.—*The Nation*, 2-28-'42.

## WEALTH—Vs. Intellect

The mother of Karl Marx was a very wise woman, for she wrote:

"If Karl had made a lot of Capital instead of writing a lot about Capital, it would have been much better."—*Nation's Business*, 2-'42.

# GEMS FROM Yesteryear

### The Draft Dodger

By PETROLEUM V. NASBY

*Draft-dodging is no new phase of American life, as this comment on the Civil War draft indicates. This is one of the first of the "Nasby" letters, written by* DAVID ROSS LOCKE, *and published in various American newspapers thruout the war period. Locke was the last, and probably least of the old-school humorists which included "Josh Billings" (Shaw) and "Artemus Ward" (Browne). All considered outlandish orthography an essential element in humor.* LOCKE *was born in 1833; died in 1888.*

I see in the papers last nite that the Government hez institooted a draft, and that in a few weeks sum hundreds uv thousands uv peaceable citizens will be dragged to the tented field. I know not what uthers may do, but ez for me, I cant go. Upon rigid eggsaminashen uv my fizzekle man, I find it wood be wus nor madnes for me to undertake a campane, to wit:

1. I'm bald-headed and hev bin obliged to wear a wig these 22 years.
2. I hev dandruff in wat scanty hair still hangs around my venerable temples.
3. I hev kronic katarr.
4. I hev lost, sence Stanton's order to draft, the use uv wun eye entirely, and hev kronic inflammashen in the other.
5. My teeth is all unsound, my palit ain't eggsactly rite, and I hev hed bronkeetis 31 yeres last Joon. At present I hev a koff, the paroxisms uv wich is friteful to behold.
6. I am holler-chested, am short-winded, and hev allus hed pains in my back and side.
7. I'm afflicted with kronic diarrear and kostivness. The money I hev paid (or promist to pay) for Jayneses karminnytiv balsam and pills wood astonish almost enny body.
8. I am rupchured in nine places.
9. I have verycose vanes, hev a white-swelling on wun leg and a fever sore on the uther; also wun leg is shorter than tother though I handle it so expert nobody never noticed it.
10. I don't suppose that my political opinions, wich are against the prossekooshn uv this unconstitooshnel war, wood hev any wate with a draftin orfiser; but the reesons why I cant go, will I make no doubt be suffishent.

# Good Stories YOU CAN USE...

Judy Canova was instructing her Negro maid about what to do in case of an air raid. Said Judy: "If an incendiary bomb falls, don't sprinkle it with water. Cover it with sand." To which the wide-eyed girl replied: "Miss Canova, if'n one of dem bumbs drops near me, only thing ah's goin' cover it with will be heel dust."—JIMMIE FIDLER, in his Syndicated Column.

## "I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE"

FREDERICK J. SCHLINK
Head of Consumers' Research

A woman on duty at one of the airplane spotting observation posts at Morristown, New Jersey, rushed to the telephone to report:

"Army Flash—two bi-motor planes and a submarine are directly over the post."

She had never seen a dirigible.

Harold Murphy, dynamic and churchly citizen has been campaigning mightily these past moons for his pastor . . . a dominie who is working toward the creation of a new edifice of spiritual beauty in which men may turn their eyes to God for relief from both Axis and taxes.

And in the course of his labors, Murphy, a good Catholic, has endeavored to put the touch on several of his Protestant friends for contributions. One of these is B. E. Hutchinson of Chrysler, who has the next locker to Murphy's at the Country Club.

So one day Murphy said to Hutchinson, "Look, B. E., how about donating a stained glass window to our church?"

"I'll be glad to," grinned Hutchinson, "if they'll let me dictate the wording of the dedication on the window."

"I think that can be arranged," replied Murphy, "what wording would you want?"

"Just this," said Hutchinson with a twinkle in his eye, "Plymouth Is the Greatest Car in the World!"

Murphy said nothing at the time but he met Hutchinson a few days later downtown, and buttonholed him again.

"By the way," he said, "you can make out the check for that stained glass church window. The pastor said your wording would be all right."

"What?" demanded Hutchinson, "You mean to say they'll put the words 'Plymouth Is the Greatest Car in the World' on a church window?"

"Sure," grinned Murphy, "but you must understand, this is a Catholic church and the whole thing will be written in LATIN!"—ANTHONY WEITZEL, *Detroit Free-Press.*

" "

The best war gag of the week comes from Washington and concerns the Los Angeles mystery air raid. In case you haven't heard it: Gen. MacArthur, on learning of the air raid over Los Angeles, is supposed to have cabled, "If you can hold out for 30 days we will send reinforcements."—SIDNEY SKOLSKY, in his Syndicated Hollywood Column.

## WISECRACKS of the Week

Strangest optical illusion of the winter was the Fuehrer's supposition that a Red standing in 2 ft. of snow had been beaten to his knees.—SENATOR SOAPER.

" "

Baseball is the only activity in which strikes help defense.—*Esquire.*

" "

A good line is the shortest distance between two dates.—*Armory News.*

" "

New version of the old plea: "Brother can you spare a spare?"—*Chicago Daily Tribune.*

" "

We have a new government secrets bill cooking which would make it an offense for a senator to give the right time if the clock is stamped "confidential".—WALTER KIERNAN, Int'l News Service.

It had rained constantly since the Aussie's arrival in London. Looking up, he saw a bunch of barrage balloons. "I wonder," he said, "why they cut every one of them loose and let the place sink."—*The American Legion Magazine.*

